

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-2WASHINGTON POST  
11 December 1984**MARY McGRORY**

## Jilting the MX, Jolting Reagan

\*\*\*\*\*

*EXCERPTED*

It is that memory that constrains the joy of MX foes, who could hardly be more pleased than if Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger had joined them.

"Will he stick with it?" both sides ask.

The most recent charge-and-retreat episode in Goldwater's long history concerns the CIA mining of Nicaraguan harbors. As chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Goldwater sent a scorching letter to CIA Director William J. Casey, pronouncing himself "pissed off" by Casey's actions. But soon afterward he voted against a resolution condemning the mining and subsequently has found public occasion to speak kindly of Casey.

But according to Rep. Thomas J. Downey (D-N.Y.), one of the organizers of House resistance to the MX, "the damage has already been done—waverers can get cover by saying that if MX is too much for even Barry Goldwater, it's too much for them. If he takes it back, he will look senile."

Goldwater wasn't shooting from the hip this time.

\*\*\*\*\*

*EXCERPTED*

In other words, Reagan wants the MX no matter what the Soviets think of it. But with Goldwater walking out on him, he might do better to put the thing up for private funding. The "contra" war in Nicaragua has been "privatized," and if he made MX contributions tax-deductible, he might be able to deploy the full 100 he has in mind. It might be easier than battling it through Congress again.